

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 25-26 and 30-32, and have cancelled claims 25 and 35-54, during prosecution of this patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this patent application that the subject matter encompassed by said amended and cancelled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, since the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter encompassed by said amended and cancelled claims, and to pursue other claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The Examiner objected to claim 26 as being dependent upon an alleged rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner objected to claims 27-29 because they depend from claim 26 and therefore incorporate the limitations of claim 26, which would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's indication of allowable claims.

Applicants have rewritten claim 26 in independent form in a manner that conforms to the machine prong of the machine-or-transformation test set forth by the Federal Circuit in *In re Bilski*, 545 F.3d 943 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (en banc). In particular, the step of "creating ... a plurality of contiguous recursive element instances (REIs) of the RSTI" is recited as being performed by a particular machine, namely by a processor of a computer system.

The Examiner rejected claims 25 and 30-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being

unpatentable over Witkowski et al. ("Witkowski"), U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0059203 A1, published May 2002, in view of Hurst, et al. ("Hurst"), Layout and Language: Preliminary investigations in recognizing the structure of tables", Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition, August 1997, Vol. 2, p. 1043-1047.

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 103 rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 25 and 30-34

The Examiner rejected claims 25 and 30-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Witkowski et al. ("Witkowski"), U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0059203 A1, published May 2002, in view of Hurst, et al. ("Hurst"), Layout and Language: Preliminary investigations in recognizing the structure of tables", Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition, August 1997, Vol. 2, p. 1043-1047.

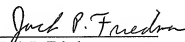
Since claim 25 has been cancelled, the rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot.

Since claims 30-34 depend from allowable claim 26, Applicants assert that claims are likewise allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0457 (IBM).

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